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Message Text

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56
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 H-02 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-05 AF-08

PA-02 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAB-01 L-03

ACDA-10 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /117 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
SSM - MS. GREEN
NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN
AF/P - MR. POPE
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
---------- 076384
R 220049Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY

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USNATO 3817/18
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 097269

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 21, 1976:

Q. WHAT DO YOU HEAR FROM LEBANON? WHAT IS AMBASSADOR BROWN DOING AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY SORT OF SITUATION REPORT FOR YOU THIS MORNING. AMBASSADOR BROWN IS CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS, AND WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC.

Q. HAS AMBASSADOR BROWN OR ANY OF HIS AIDES -- OR ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL -- BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO IN THE SITUATION IN LEBANON?

A. NO.

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Q. NO CONTACT WHATEVER?

A. NO.

Q. IS LEBANON LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED IN PARIS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE AGENDA IS. I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD BE AN OPEN AGENDA.

Q. HAS MR. BROWN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE VHALANGIST LEADERS?

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A. I ASSUME HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM, AS HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LEADERS OF ALL OF THE MAJOR FACTIONS.

Q. HAS ONE OF HIS FUNCTIONS BEEN TO GET THE PHALANGISTS TO ACCEDE TO SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON?

A. NO. HIS FUNCTION HAS BEEN TO HAVE TALKS WITH ALL OF THE LEADERS IN EFFORTS TO HELP THEM REACH A SOLUTION IN LEBANON.

Q. SO YOU'RE STILL STICKING TO THE POSITION THAT HE DOESN'T ADVANCE ANY IDEAS; HE'S SORT OF A SHUTTLECOCK THAT IS BOUNCED BACK AND FORTH AND --

A. PERFORM A CATALYTIC FUNCTION.

Q. PERFORM A CATALYTIC FUNCTION--BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM THERE THAT ONE OF HIS MAIN TASKS WAS TO GET THE SYRIAN INTERVENTION SWALLOWED BY THE PHALANGISTS. YOU WOULD DENY THAT, WOULD YOU?

A. NO. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS ACCURATE.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT FROM AMMAN THIS MORNING THAT SUGGESTED THAT THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WAS MISLED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO THE TOTAL COST OF THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE, THAT THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

NOT AWARE OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PACKAGE UNTIL JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AT THE EARLIEST. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NO ONE HAS BEEN MISLED ON THIS AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. OBVIOUSLY, BOTH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS HAVE BEEN FULLY INFORMED ON EACH STEP AS THIS TRANSACTION AS THEY TRANSPIRED.

Q. WELL, SPECIFICALLY, AT THE TIME THAT THE LETTERS OF OFFER ON THE HARDWARE PART OF THE PACKAGE WENT UP TO CONGRESS LAST SUMMER, WAS THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME MADE AWARE THAT THE TOTAL PACKAGE, INCLUDING COMMAND AND CONTROLS, SPARE PARTS, TRAINING, ETC., WOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF $800 MILLION?

A. CERTAINLY THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED FULLY ON WHAT THE COST OF THE PROGRAM WOULD BE. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT ONLY TWO LETTERS OF OFFER COVERING THE BASIC HAWK-VULCAN HARDWARE PROPOSED FOR SALE HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

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NOW, THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF OFFER COVERING OTHER ELEMENTS--SO-CALLED "SOFTWARE" -- OF THE HAWK-VULVAN PACKAGE, ENTAILING UNDEFINED ADDITIONAL COSTS, AND NORMALLY WOULD, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE JORDANIANU OVER A PERIOD OF MANY MONTHS AS THE PROGRAM WENT FORWARD.

Q. BUT WERE THEY MADE AWARE LAST YEAR OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE LETTERS OF OFFER STILL TO BE SUBMITTED?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATIONS. I AM ASSUMING THAT IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE WHOLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM THAT THEY WERE PROVIDED ESTIMATES OF COSTS. LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND AN ANSWER ON THAT.

Q. COULD YOU COME UP WITH A PRECISE ANSWER ON THAT, AND A COROLLARY, IF I CAN PURSUE IT, IS, EVAN WHILE THE LETTERS OF OFFER, AS YOU HAVE JUST SAID, COVERING THE HARDWARE
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WERE SENT TO CONGRESS LAST SUMMER, AND THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES WERE AT THAT TIME TOLD WHAT THE CLASSIFIED COST OF THE HARDWARE WAS -- IS IT TRUE, AS THE ARTICLE FROM AMMAN SAID THIS MORNING IN THE WASHINGTON POST, THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WERE NOT TOLD AT THAT TIME WHAT THE TOTAL COST OF THE PACKAGE WOULD BE?

A. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS, WE DISCUSSED IN FULL WITH THEM OUR INTENTION TO SUPPLY A MODERN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO JORDAN. THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS THEMSELVES, I BELIEVE, FOCUSED ON THE TWO LETTERS OF OFFER THAT I MENTIONED EARLIER. BUT, IMPLICIT IN THE SYSTEM IS THAT THERE WOULD BE FOLLOW-ONS TO IT.

Q. ZAS THIS MADE EXPLICIT TO CONGRESS AT THE TIME?

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A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THE DEGREE OF EXPLICITY TO CHECK.

Q. WOULD YOU CHECK THAT, ALSO?

A. YES.

Q. LAST WEEK, IT WAS ALSO SAID HERE, AFTER PREMIER RIFAI HAD SAID THE HAWK DEAL WAS DEAD, THAT IT WAS -- QUOTE -- VERY MUCH ALIVE. THERE WERE OTHER MURMURS FROM THE PENTAGON INDICATING TO THE CONTRARY THAT IT SEEMED TO BE SHELVED. WHAT IS THE REAL SITUATION?

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A. ALL I CAN TELL YOU, IS THAT I AM INFORMED THAT IT REMAINS ALIVE. IT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Q. ARE WE ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING STILL --

A. SURE, WE REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH THE JORDANIANS AND THE SAUDIS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A ROUGH IDEA WHAT THE BREAKDOWN IS PER-

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CENTAGEWISE BETWEEN HARDWARE ON THE ONE HAND AND SOFTWARE ON THE OTHER?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. COULD YOU FIND OUT, PLEASE?

A. I WILL CHECK INTO THAT.

Q. ANOTHER RELATED POINT -- PREMIER RIFAI, I BELIEVE SAID IN LONDON THAT CERTAIN CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE LETTERS OF OFFER WERE DUE TO EXPIRE ON OR ABOUT THE END OF THE MONTH. COULD YOU VERIFY THAT?

A. I CHECKED INTO THAT, I REMEMBER. I THINK YOU ASKED ABOUT THAT WHEN I WAS HERE.

Q. I ASKED ABOUT THE LETTERS OF OFFER, AND I NOW REVISE THAT QUESTION.

A. NO, THEY ARE NOT EXPIRING AT THAT POINT.

Q. AND THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC CONTRACTS WITH RAYTHEON AND OTHER CONTRACTORS?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO THE CONTRACT QUESTION. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THAT.

Q. WOULD YOU DO THAT?

Q. IS IT TRUE ON THAT THAT RAYTHEON HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH TO WORK OUT THE FINANCING? OTHERWISE, IT WILL ASK FOR TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT. LET ME CHECK INTO THAT.

Q. THIS QUARREL IS BETWEEN -- OR THIS SITUATION IS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA, ON ONE HAND, AND THE UNITED STATES

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GOVERNMENT ON THE OTHER. IS THE CONGRESS REALLY
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INVOLVED IN THIS, NOW, EVER SINCE THE RESOLUTION OF THE
HAWK MISSILE SYSTEMS?

A. THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED.

Q. BUT THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY HERE BETWEEN THE
ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS, IS THERE?

A. NO. IT IS A QUESTION OF WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF
THE PURCHASE BETWEEN JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, RIGHT.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE097269
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760154-0960
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604115/baaaeopv.tel
Line Count: 290
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2004 by schaefaj>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: ALGIERS
AMMAN
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006